

Message Text

PAGE 01 JIDDA 02750 040454 Z

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ACTION SS-25

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R 031323 Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4257
INFO AMEMBASSY SANAA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 2750

EXDIS

DHAHRAN PASS CHUSMTM

DEPT PASS DOD WASHDC

DOD FOR ISA

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SA, YE
SUBJECT: OPERATION TRIANGEL: MODERNIZATION OF YEMENI MILITARY (S)

REF: JIDDA 2573

SUMMARY: USMTM PROPOSALS FOR PROGRAM TO MODERNIZE YEMENI ARMY VIA TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN PRESENTED TO PRINCE SULTAN; NAVY AND AIR FORCE PROPOSALS WILL BE PRESENTED SHORTLY. USMTM PROPOSES CREATION OF SAUDI OFFICE OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE AFFAIRS TO COORDINATE PROGRAM AS NEXT LOGICAL STEP. IF DEPT. CONCURS, EMBASSY WILL URGE SAG TO DISCUSS TRAINING NEEDS WITH YAR. SAG UNLIKELY TAKE THIS STEP, HOWEVER, UNTIL IT HAS ANSWER ON DEGREE OF USG FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PROGRAM. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS USG FINANCING OF MTT'S FOR SAUDI ARABIA AS BEST FORM OF CONTRIBUTION, DEPARTMENT COMMENTS REQUESTED. END SUMMARY.

1. ON 24 JUNE USMTM COMPLETED PACKAGE SUMMARIZING DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS ON YAR ARMY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM AS WORKED OUT WITH LTG. KABBANI, MODA G3. (IT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED TO US THAT
SECRET

PAGE 02 JIDDA 02750 040454 Z

REPORT SUBMITTED TO SULTAN VIRTUALLY AS WRITTEN; USMTM WILL POUCH COPY TO DOD.) NAVY AND AIR FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE SUBMITTED WITHIN FEW DAYS; WHEN COMBINED WITH ARMY EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING RECOMMENDATIONS, THESE THREE FACETS WILL CON-

STITUTE INITIAL BASIS FOR YAR MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM.

NEXT STEP IS TO CONSIDER HOW TO PROCEED WITH TRAINING PHASE OF PROGRAM AND TO RESOLVE USG POSITION ON FINANCIAL QUESTION.

2. REPORT ADVISES MODA ESTABLISH AT FIRST OPPORTUNITY AN OFFICE OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE AFFAIRS (OMAA) TO OVERSEE SAG MILITARY ASSISTANCE EFFORT TO YEMEN. SUBORDINATE TO THIS WOULD BE SAUDI ARABIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUP (SAMAAG) WHICH, AS PROGRAM PROGRESSES, WOULD GO TO YAR TO TRAIN YEMENIS IN USE AND MAINTENANCE OF WEAPONS AND MATERIAL. USMTM PROPOSALS INCLUDE RECOMMENDED STAFFING FOR BOTH OMAA AND SAMAAG (WITH USMTM ADVICE, THESE STAFFING PATTERNS CAN BE SCALED DOWN IF NECESSARY TO ACCOMMODATE PRESENTLY- AVAILABLE PERSONNEL , WITH FULL MANNING TO BE ACCOMPLISHED AT A LATER DATE). FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF DEPT' S VIEWS OR CONCURRENCE IN REPORT, EMBASSY WILL URGE SULTAN TO CREATE OMAA AS NEXT LOGICAL STEP IN CARRYING OUT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

3. SUMMARY OF COSTS OF ARMY EQUIPMENT PROPOSED TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOLLOWS (DETAILS BE FOUND IN PLAN-- BEING POUCHED)

A. WHEELED VEHICLES	\$11,550,690
B. COMBAT VEHICLES (APC' S TANKS, TRACK RECOVERY VEHICLES AND ARMORED CARS)	17,030,500
C. WEAPONS (M-14 RIFLES, 45 CAL. PISTOLS, 30 CAL. & 50 CAL. MAC- HINE GUNS, 3.5 INCH ROCKET LAUNCHERS, 81 MM MORTARS, 4.2 INCH MORTARS, 105 MM HOWITZERS)	3,245,939
D. SIGNAL	3,141,868
E. MEDICAL	200,000
F. ENGINEER EQUIPMENT	1,120,300
G. SUPPORT WORKSHOPS	13,194,516
H. OTHER EQUIPMENT	95,001
I. REPAIR PARTS	5,000,000
J. AMMUNITION	25,875,021
K. HANDLING AND SHIPPING CHARGES	16,090,767
TOTAL	\$96,544,602

SECRET

PAGE 03 JIDDA 02750 040454 Z

THE SAG HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT THE PRICES QUOTED ABOVE ARE ESTIMATES ONLY AND ARE TAKEN FROM REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME. PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES FOR AIR FORCE ASSISTANCE PACKAGE TOTAL \$180 MILLION .

4. SAG WOULD PROVIDE ABOVE EQUIPMENT TO YAR VIA FMS PURCHASES ESTINED DIRECTLY FOR YEMEN OR BY DRAWING UPON MODA' S OWN CURRENT INVENTORY. IN LATTER CASE, USG WOULD REPLACE THESE ITEMS THROUGH FMS. USG MUST BE PREPARED ACT EXPEDITIOUSLY ON THESE CASES WHEN CONCLUDED.

5. PROPOSAL ENVISIONS US MTT' S INSTRUCTING SAUDI MILITARY IN OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF MATERIAL; INSTRUCTION VARIOUSLY ESTIMATED TO REQUIRE 90-180 DAYS. FOLLOWING COMPLETION THIS EFFORT TRAINED SAUDI MTT' S WOULD THEN GO TO YEMEN TO TRAIN

YEMENIS. IN INTERVAL PRIOR DISPATCH SAUDI MTT' S, SOME YEMENIS MIGHT ATTEND VARIOUS SAUDI MILITARY COURSES IN THE KINGDOM TO ACQUIRE ADDITIONAL USEFUL MILITARY TRAINING. THIS SCENARIO CONTINUES TO AVOID ANY DIRECT USG- YAR CONTACT.

6. AT PRESENT IT IS ENVIONED THAT US MTT' S MANNED BY MINIMUM 2 CPTS AND 2 NCOS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE INSTRUCTION TO SAA PERSONNEL ON INDIVIDUAL AND CREW SERVED WEAPONS WHILE IN-DIRECT FIRE SUPPORT WEAPONS INSTRUCTION WOULD REQUIRE MTT CON-SISTING OF MINIMUM 2 CPTS AND 4 NCOS. (THE NUMBER OF MTT' S NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS TASK CAN ONLY BE ESTIMATED AFTER SAG-YAR DISCUSSIONS ON TRAINING NEEDS.) AT A LATER DATE, THERE WILL BE ADDITIONAL US MTT' S REQUIRED TO INSTRUCT ON ITEMS SUCH AS TANKS AND SELF PROPELLED ARTILLERY; ARRIVAL OF THESE MTT' S TO BE DETERMINED BY RECEIPT OF SUCH EQUIPMENT. THE INSTRUCTION PRO-VIDED BY THESE MTT' S WILL BE CONDUCTED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF SAUDI ARABIA.

7. ALSO FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF DEPT' S VIEWS, EMBASSY WILL URGE SAG TO PRESENT PLAN TO YAR TO GET YAR AGREEMENT ON TRAINING NEEDS. ONCE THIS AGREEMENT OBTAINED, MTT' S TO SAUDI ARABIA TO BEGIN TRAINING SAUDI INSTRUCTORS. EMBASSY SUSPECTS, HOWEVER, THAT SAG WILL NOT INITIATE FURTHER TALKS WITH YAR UNTIL QUESTION OF DEGREE OF USG FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS RESOLVED. ALTHOUGH WE FEEL SAG MUST BE FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR PUR CHASES OF EQUIPMENT, PRINCE SULTAN (REFTEL) HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT SOME FORM OF SYMBOLIC AMERICAN FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION IS
SECRET

PAGE 04 JIDDA 02750 040454 Z

DESIRED. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT USG AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO FINANCE SOME OF MTT' S WOULD BE BEST CONTRIBUTION, ALLOWING US TO EMPHASIZE THAT TRAINING AND TECHNICAL KNOW- HOW IS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE

8. IF PLANS TRAINING RECOMMENDATIONS ARE APPROVED, USMTM WOULD URGE SAG TO EXPAND MODA' S MILITARY INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGES (MIL) IN RIYADH TO ABSORB YEMENI STUDENTS (SAA REQUIREMENTS FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING ALREADY NECESSITATE THIS EXPANSION). IF MODA WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS AND INSTRUCTORS, FACILITIES MAY BE USED TO UPGRADE YAR PERSONNEL' S ENGLISH COMPREHENSION LEVEL TO POINT WHERE SOME COULD BE SENT TO DLIEL, CONUS, FOR FURTHER ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING AND ENTRY INTO OTHER US MILITARY SERVICE SCHOOLS.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: A) USG POSITION ON DEGREE ON NATURE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PROGRAM ; B) COMMENTS OR CONCURRENCE IN PROPOSED PROGRAM.
THACHR

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED DOD.

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